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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Theodore Wortrich	Examiner:	Victor X. Nguyen
Serial No.:	10/085,190	Group Art Unit:	3731
Filed:	Feb. 27, 2003	Docket No.:	

Title: IMPROVED MICROKERATOME BLADES AND METHODS OF MAKING

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on Jan 15, 2004.
Raymond A. Borgeli

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action dated 23 December 2003, please amend the above application as follows:

In the Specification:

Para. [030]. Referring now to Figs. 5 and 6, the blade 30 disclosed therein includes a straight cutting edge 32 and generally hemispherical posterior periphery as previously described. Although designed for a different type of microkeratome instrument, the blade 30 also includes a single coupling aperture 34 that is ovoid and elongated substantially parallel to the cutting edge 32. The coupling aperture 34 is accessed via a small control slit 35 having a beveled corner 36 for blade type identification. An asymmetric holder 37 has an elongated groove 38 on one side for receiving a reciprocating drive pin (not shown) and a boss or protruding portion 39 on the other side mating to and engaging within the coupling aperture [[35]] 34 to secure the holder 37 to the blade 30. Thus a generally hemispherical blade in accordance with the invention is amenable to use with totally different types of microkeratome machines.